



WILD POTATOES IN THE ECUADOREAN ANDES.

(*Solanum tuberosum* L., S. P. I. No. 53187.)

The origin of the potato is somewhat obscure. It is generally believed that it is a native of the high Andean region of northern South America, perhaps extending southward to Chile. The plants shown above appear to be of the true wild species; they were found in northern Ecuador at an elevation of nearly 13,000 feet and are quite distinct from the cultivated potatoes of that country in the character of their tubers. The latter are too small to be of economic value, but the plant (which, it may be remarked, produces seed rather freely) will be of interest to breeders of this important crop. (Photographed by Wilson Popenoe, Hacienda La Rinconada, Ecuador, June 8, 1921; P18594FS.)